



SpeechWire

Online Tournaments:
The Show Goes On

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Founder/Owner



SpeechWire

Can SpeechWire run online forensics tournaments?

- Yes.
- **Asynchronous** meets have already been run on SpeechWire.
- **Synchronous** meets have already been run on SpeechWire using it in combination with Zoom, Yaately and Google Meet
- More platforms will likely work with SpeechWire in the future, too.



Electronic Ballots

- SpeechWire has offered electronic ballots for some years now
- They power online/virtual competition

Code	Name	Email	Type
1	<input type="text" value="Ben Stewart"/>	<input type="text" value="support@speechwire.com"/>	Unspecified ▼
Notes (optional): <input type="text"/>			

- Judge emails are collected

<u>1</u>	<u>Ben Stewart</u>	<u>SpeechWire Test Team</u>	support@speechwire.com	LINKED
<u>2</u>	<u>A Judge</u>	<u>SpeechWire Test Team</u>	judge@judges.net	<input type="button" value="Link"/>

- Judge accounts can easily be created if needed



Electronic Ballots

- After scheduling, release the eballots
- Next, blast out alerts to the judges via text/email
- Once rounds begin, you can monitor when the rounds began

RELEASING E-BALLOTS

Perform release as checked

Grouping	Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Final
After Dinner Speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section	C
Started?	11:29 AM
Judge	X3 Ben Stewart
Room	TEST 101
1	ZZ1 Abbi Adkins
2	ZZ5 Laura Poughkeepsie
3	ZZ2 CJ Lowe
4	ZZ6 Zak Vilen
5	ZZ4 Hannah Clarkson
6	ZZ3 Raul Winthrop
7	ZZ7 Xenia Royce

Blast out judge ballot pickup alerts

Return to posting center Return to home page

What group of judges do you want to blast an alert to? All judges ▼

Do you want to restrict to one grouping only? No, include all groupings ▼

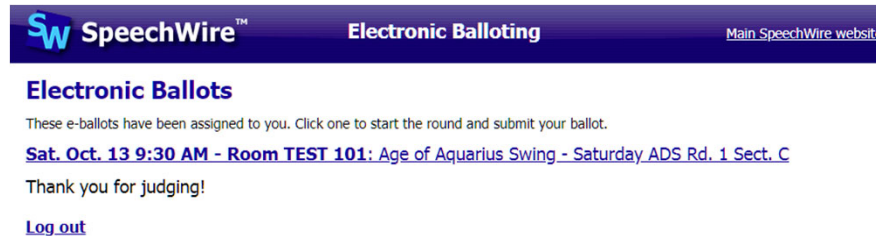
What round are you blasting for? Round 1 ▼ Send blasts now

Return to posting center Return to home page



Electronic Ballots

- Judges see their ballots in their online balloting accounts



- They then start the round, so tab knows

Electronic ballot

Age of Aquarius Swing - Saturday ADS Rd. 1 Sect. C
Room TEST 101, Sat. Oct. 13 at 9:30 AM

[Click here to start the round](#)

Please click the link above when the round begins so that the tab room knows that you have started the round.

[Return to home page](#)



SpeechWire

Electronic Ballots

- Judges now see their master ballot/cover sheet, which has a spot for rank and points for each entry and a link to edit comments for each

Save ballot
Return to home page

Pos.	Competitor	Comments	Rank	Points
1	ZZ1 Abbi Adkins	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	ZZ5 Laura Poughkeepsie	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	ZZ2 CJ Lowe	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	ZZ6 Zak Vilen	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	ZZ4 Hannah Clarkson	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	ZZ3 Raul Winthrop	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7	ZZ7 Xenia Royce	Edit comments	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



Electronic Ballots

- Comments can be submitted before rank/points are set, and can also be edited after rank/points are set. (Rank/points cannot be changed once submitted.)

Electronic comments

Age of Aquarius Swing - Saturday ADS Rd. 1 Sect. C
Room TEST 101, Sat. Oct. 13 at 9:30 AM

Speaker #1 -- ZZ1 Abbi Adkins

Save comments

Discard changes and return to ballot

Type your comments here



SpeechWire

Asynchronous tournaments

- Entries are judged by having judges watch pre-recorded videos of performances
- URLs of videos are often collected during registration of each entry
- Various approaches for collecting videos (save to a Google Drive/folder, unlisted YouTube links, etc.)



Asynchronous tournaments

- **STRENGTHS**
 - Relatively simpler to administer compared to synchronous/live tournaments
 - Doesn't have to run in one day, can spread rounds over a few days
 - Can allow very flexible judging schedules
 - Allows for some form of forensics participation amid very difficult circumstances



Asynchronous tournaments

- CONSIDER
 - Does not really simulate a tournament experience with no live performances
 - Same performance is adjudicated in every round
 - Videos should probably be shared with as small an audience as is feasible for as short as possible to respect copyright to the utmost while still enabling educational purposes



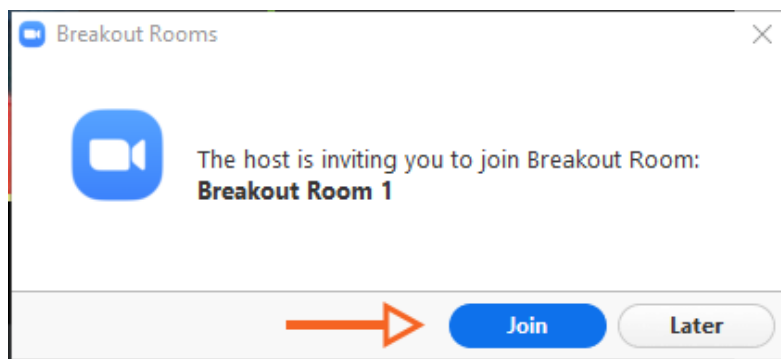
Asynchronous tournaments

- Several already run on SpeechWire
- Entries varied from fewer than 100 to around 1,000 in a single tournament
- Main manager tasks...
 - Verifying video links/entries (if desired)
 - Scheduling tournament/breaking rounds
 - Ensuring judges actually submit ballots by deadlines



Synchronous with Zoom

- Students and judges join one (or more) Zoom calls hosted by the manager and/or tab staff and/or proctors
- Breakout rooms are then created in the main call, and students compete in front of judges in breakout rooms



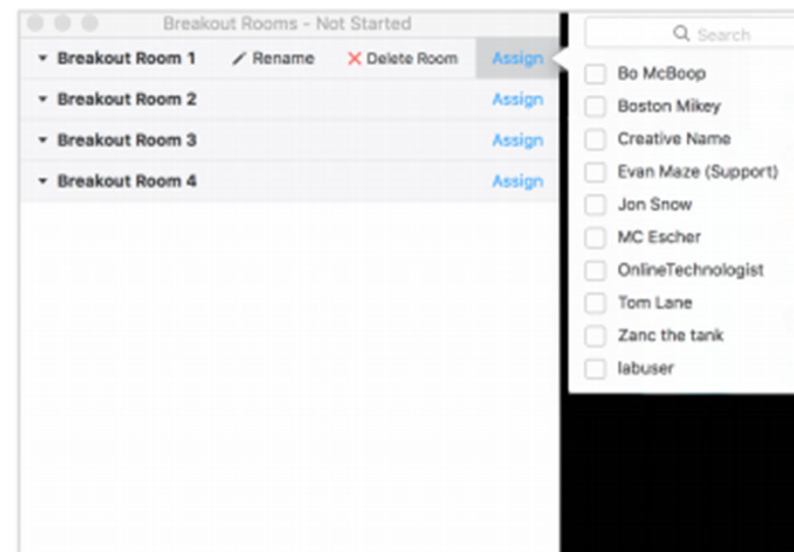
Synchronous with Zoom

- SpeechWire can export schemas if...
- Email addresses of judges and students are collected in registration
- These should match free Zoom accounts belonging to the students and judges
- Students and judges log into their Zoom account before joining the call



Synchronous with Zoom

- Students and judges that did not log into Zoom before joining or that did not enter the correct email address in registration can be manually assigned to rooms
- This might just be necessary due to cross entry.
- Strategies (renaming)



Synchronous with Zoom

- **STRENGTHS:**
 - Zoom is already widely used
 - Many people will be familiar with it
 - Some institutions may already have professional Zoom accounts
 - Platform is widely used and seems stable
 - If you have students and judges rename themselves with room first before you send to breakout rooms, it's much faster



Synchronous with Zoom

- **CONSIDER:**
 - Manually assigning students/judges to breakout rooms takes at least a few minutes
 - Zoom isn't free, but the cost is likely low-ish
 - Security concerns have surfaced (Zoom-bombing, Zoom's privacy practices)
 - Export to CSV feature probably won't work great with cross-entries



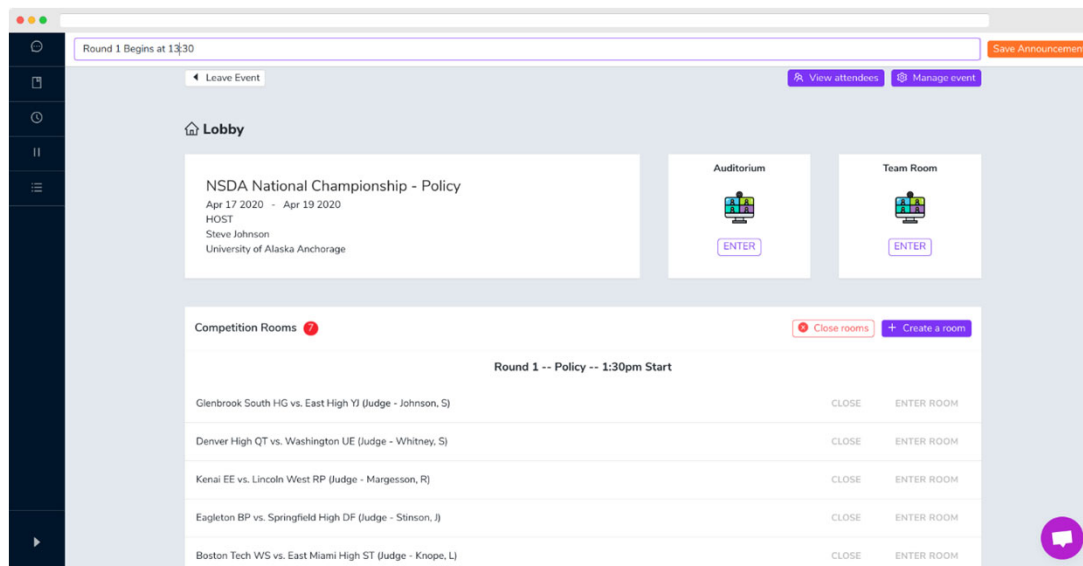
Synchronous with Yaatly

- Yaatly is a video competition platform designed specifically for forensics
- I have had discussions with its creator and an advocate for the platform
- I will relate as best I am able what I know of the platform but I don't run it!
- A tournament did use it and SpeechWire



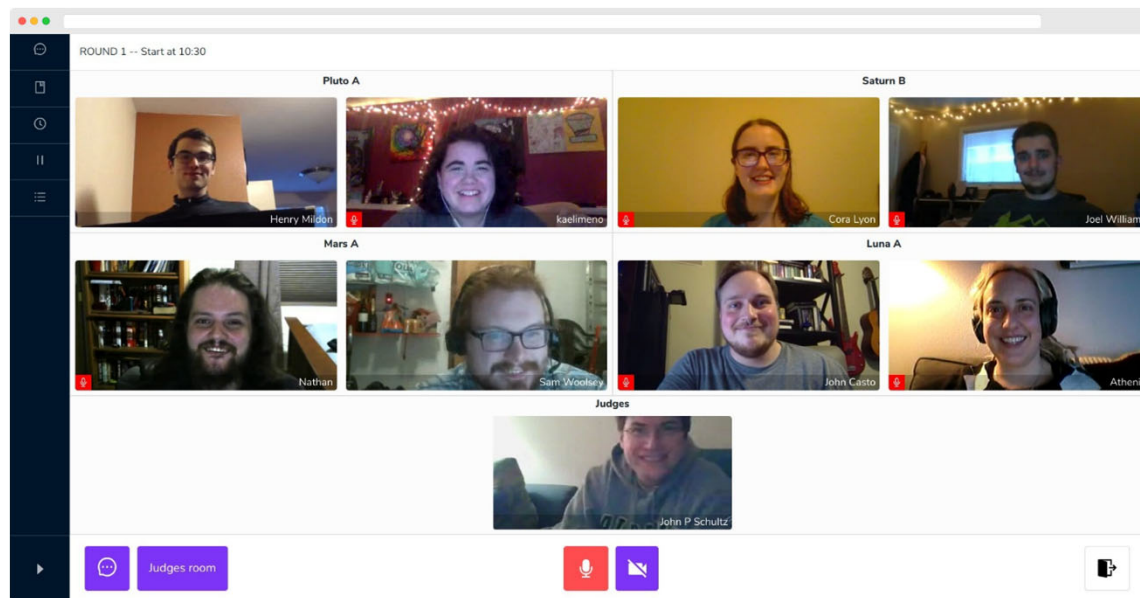
Synchronous with Yaatly

- After rounds are scheduled, you export a schematic from SpeechWire into Yaatly
- This creates competition rooms which students and judges join after logging into Yaatly
- Special purpose rooms are an option



Synchronous with Yaatly

- Rooms (at least for debate) are laid out in a way simulating a real competition room
- I am in discussions with Yaatly about how that might work best for speech as well



Synchronous with Yaatly

- **STRENGTHS:**

- A video platform designed specifically to serve forensics competitions with live video rounds
- No need to manually move students and judges into breakout rooms; they just join
- Export schematics directly from tab service into Yaatly, which automatically creates rooms
- This means likely less need for administrative work (and staff?) than Zoom/Google Meet



Synchronous with Yaatly

- CONSIDER:
 - Speech has clearly been run on Yaatly, but I believe the final speech system is under work
 - I am part of the conversation with regard to speech and it sounds like it'll be a specific speech solution, and you will be able to upload schematics from SpeechWire
 - Not a free service – but specifically forensics live video solutions seem unlikely to be free



Synchronous with Google

- Live video tournaments have run on SpeechWire in combination with Google Hangouts/Google Meet this spring
- Email addresses (Gmail hopefully) are collected during registration
- Manager/tab creates meetings (Calendar) and invites students/judges



Synchronous with Google

- Invitations are sent via Gsuite/Calendar to appropriate students and judges so they can get into their rooms
- This process creates significant overhead for the manager/staff to have to do
- For prelims, since meets usually schedule 1-2 days out, this could be done right after running the initial schematics



Synchronous with Google

- Possible that creation of meetings might be able to be integrated with the eballot
 - Eballot could link to the Gmeet home page
 - Judge creates the meeting, copies the meeting URL and pastes it into the eballot
 - The eballot blasts an email/text to just the students in the round with the URL to join
 - Manager/tab can support any students who contact tab saying they did not get the text/email



Synchronous with Google

- STRENGTHS:
 - Google is incredibly widely used
 - Most students/judges may already have Gmail
 - Free (for now... see next slide)
 - There's a possibility that the creation of the meetings *might* be able to be offloaded to the judges instead of the manager, reducing overhead compared to Zoom



Synchronous with Google

- **CONSIDER:**
 - When Meet launched, Google said it would only be free and unlimited til September 30
 - After September 30, the limit on free calls would be 60 minutes (at that point anyway)
 - If you create all the meetings as manager, it will take a good deal of time, even with SpeechWire helping you see which email addresses to paste for each round



Thanks for your time!

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